



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,383	10/10/2000	Helge Neidhardt	PI00564-00030	7142

7590 07/01/2002

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn PLLC
1050 Connecticut Ave N W
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER

MERTZ, PREMA MARIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/684,383	Applicant(s) Hotten et al.
Examiner Prema Mertz	Art Unit 1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 4, 2002

2a) This action is FINAL.

2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 24-28

is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____

is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____

is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____

is/are objected to.

8) Claims 24-28

are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1646

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I. Claims 24-28, are drawn to an polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and a pharmaceutical composition thereof, classified in Class 424, subclass 85.1.

Group II. Claims 24-28, are drawn to an polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 and a pharmaceutical composition thereof, classified in Class 424, subclass 85.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-II are independent and distinct, each from the other, because they are products which possess characteristic differences in structure and function and each has an independent utility, that is distinct for each invention which cannot be exchanged. The proteins of inventions I-II can be used as probes, or used therapeutically or diagnostically, e.g. in screening, or as probes in immunoassays. Furthermore, each of the polypeptides are materially different products which are structurally and chemically different, capable of separate manufacture and use. The products in the different Groups are physically and chemically distinct from each other, and if patentable would support separate patents. Distinctness is further shown because a search of one of the polypeptides would not reveal art pertinent to the other and each of these products can be made and used without any one or more of the other products. Separate searches would be required for searching each of the polypeptide products eg. a search of the literature for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 would not necessarily reveal art for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4. Therefore, each of the polypeptides

Art Unit: 1646

are not related and are properly restrictable in accordance with MPEP.. § 806.04 and MPEP.. § 808.01.

Having shown that these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their recognized divergent subject matter as defined by MPEP... § 808.02, the Examiner has *prima facie* shown a serious burden of search (see MPEP... § 803). Therefore, an initial requirement of restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 C.F.R 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Advisory Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prema Mertz whose telephone number is (703) 308-4229. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler, can be reached on (703) 308-6564.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4227. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Application/Control Number: 09/684,383

Page 4

Art Unit: 1646

Prema Mertz
Prema Mertz Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1646
June 10, 2002